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January 12, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

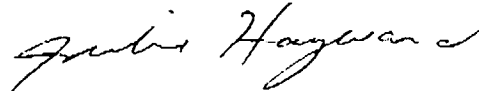
For three years, I have been absolutely befuddled as to why the federal government is so interested in attacking American free enterprise. Microsoft is a company that makes a product that benefits the lives of practically every person in America, and every person on the Earth. Their great contribution to the world of computers knows no rival, and they have been duly rewarded for their market and technical genius.

The case against Microsoft never should have come to trial. It has been an embarrassment to both the American judicial system and to American business for three long years. People everywhere are getting wise to the fact that the case against Microsoft was motivated by greed and jealousy and envy and sloth more than anything remotely substantial.

Forcing Microsoft to do all the tedious parts of the proposed settlement i.e. making retaliation against competitors impossible will only serve to slow progress in the IT industry. Microsoft and its competitors must all be on a level playing field as a result of this suit. Unfortunately, that won't be the case. The government is stripping Microsoft of rights needed for business survival, including competing.

The Department of Justice must close this case before any further damage can be done to Microsoft, and ultimately, the economy. American business deserves a speedy end to these three years of painful litigation. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Julie Hayward